



Australian Men's Shed Association

New South Wales

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

ZONE 8 - NEWSLETTER - November 2015

Welcome Shedders

It was great to catch up with some of you during the Newcastle Conference even if only for a short time during my hectic schedule. I think everything went as planned though it was a little breezy at Fort Scrathley and the BBQ slow but the visits to sheds gave everyone a different perspective on how every shed is different.

As for the keynote speakers, again the sessions about insurance led by Sean McDermott were exceptional and while not specifically related to Men's Sheds I thoroughly enjoyed Barrie Cassidy from the ABC Insiders program with his insights into the Australian political scene.

Another highlight was the attendance of a large group from Ireland where I learned there are more sheds per head of population than in Australia. I liked what one of the Irish said was on the door of their shed.

What Do Shed Do?
Some days we fix things
Some day we talk
Some days we do nothing
But every day we make tea!

What a wonderful simple statement that sums up most sheds

When talking about Men's Sheds at your next BBQ or dinner party drop the line that currently there are 90 more sheds in Australia than there are McDonalds, and the number of sheds is growing!

Men's Health

An event that created an enormous interest, if not from the delegates attending but from the Federal Government and from Australia's mass media was the launch of the Men's Health – Spanner in the Works web site. This initiative owned by AMSA promotes Men's Health and asks, *“When was your last service? Knowing when to have your car checked is no different than keeping your body in peak condition”* By selecting a body part from the screen the interactive program takes you to the site of the organisation working in that health area. Since the launch this has become the most accessed men's health site and comes up at the top of the list in your search engine. Check it out by entering, men's health into your search engine and select *“When was your last service”*.

Walking Around Australia

In my last Newsletter I mentioned Mike Pauly who was walking from Fremantle to Newcastle via the Northern Territory. Well he covered 8,000 Km and arrived at the Conference with 3 days to spare and was given a bed in the home of a shedder and his family for the duration. Mike is well on his way south having passed through the Sydney area where he had a disagreement with a truck, slept in a Cemetery for a night, was taken home by a car salesman from Sydney south and given a lift in a Council truck when he was banned from walking on a freeway.

Mike arrived in Wollongong in time for the Festival of Song and having had experience with a male voice choir in WA joined up with a group named Men in Suits. He was interviewed by the ABC, camped in a backyard where he took time to take some of the load from his trolley and continues to have adventures most of us will never experience.

By the time he walks to Melbourne, around Tasmania then back home across the Nullarbor he will have covered 15,000 Km. Not bad for an old bloke!

Round 11 Shed Development Grants

This round closed some time ago and the grading has begun. A meeting of the assessment committee is planned for early November with recommendations the Governments to allow the notification to the successful applicants before Christmas.

I imagine Round 12 will be announced when the successful applicants from Round 11 are announced which will probably mean applications close in early 2016.

Formal Complaints

Since the Conference I have been asked to assess 4 formal complaints from shed members about happenings in their sheds, and not all are in NSW.

Each complaint is different but at the same time stems from the same root cause, not following the sheds established dispute/conflict resolution policies. None of us like dealing with disagreements in our sheds but the best way to manage these as they arise, and they will, is to work through the sheds policies on dealing with such matters. Managing issues within your shed is so much better than having it dealt with by an outsider.

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Secretary

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Aberdeen Men's Shed, Bateau Bay Men's Shed, Branxton-Greta Men's Shed, Cessnock Men's Shed & Community Garden, Cooranbong Men's Shed, Denman and District Men's Shed, Erina Community Men's Shed, Gosford City Model Railroad Club, Gosford Community Men's Shed, Kincumber Men's Shed, Kurri Kurri Community Centre, Manno Men's Shed, Murrurundi Community Men's Shed, Muswellbrook Men's Shed, Peninsular Community Men's Shed, San Remo Community Men's Shed, South Lake Macquarie Community Men's Shed, Singleton Men's Shed, Swansea & District Community Men's Shed, Terrigal Men's Shed, The Entrance Men's Shed, The Shed @ Lake Haven, Umina Beach Men's Shed, Upper Hunter Men's Shed, Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed, Wyong Men's Shed